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## **SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

*Judy Gott, Executive Director*

*Testimony of Judy Gott, Executive Director of the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG)  
in support of Proposed Bill No. 745, An Act Concerning Tweed New Haven Airport*

February 18, 2009

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony concerning Tweed New Haven Regional Airport. The Authority was created by Act of the Legislature and is the only transportation asset in the state run by a regional board of directors.

The South Central Regional Council of Governments is one of eight regional partners in Greater New Haven which together approve and endorse a short list of legislative priorities each year, demonstrating that, on these items, the region speaks with one voice. The 2009 Regional Legislative Agenda, adopted by these eight organizations, urges the Legislature to "strengthen interstate and regional access by increasing operating and capital support for Tweed-New Haven Airport...."

The South Central Regional Council of Governments has formally endorsed Tweed Airport three times, most recently on November 19, 2008. The Resolution (a) endorses the concept of Tweed as small regional airport, (b) supports the use of previously approved and new State bond funds to fund infrastructure improvements and community benefits, and (c) endorses ongoing State operating support for Tweed in the amount of \$2.0 million/year.

Although we recognize the many demands on you this year in shaping the budget, the SCRCOG supports Tweed New Haven Airport Authority's request for \$1.5 M in State support for airport operations.

It is important to remind everyone that Tweed's air service is not in competition with Bradley International Airport. The air service it offers is a component of the overall air service system in New England, designed to meet the traveling public's needs. The Transportation Strategy Board has recognized this role by endorsing a strategy of support for commercial air service at both Tweed and Bradley.

As Tweed continues to improve its infrastructure and implement its Master Plan, we urge you to continue supporting its operations. Air service to and from Tweed is a critical element in achieving sustained economic growth in the southern part of our state.

Thank you for your support.